

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
For
Trail Creek Environmental Assessment
North Trail and South Trail Timber Sale

Proposed Action

The Butte Falls Resource Area (BFRA) proposes to implement forest management activities in the Trail Creek Watershed. The proposed action is to harvest 15 million board feet of timber on Matrix and Riparian Reserve lands as designated in the Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS/ROD), pg. 7. The total analysis area is 35,000 acres in size. BLM manages 14,681 acres (42%) of the analysis area; private industry manages 10,160 acres (29%); Forest Service manages 4,360 acres (12%); state of Oregon manages 79 acres (<1%); the remaining 6,026 acres (17%) are private non-industrial lands. The proposed project of timber harvest, are located in the Trail Creek watershed of the Butte Falls Resource Area, Medford District BLM. All projects are located on public lands administered by the BLM.

The projects are located in:

T32S R1W sections 19, 21, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34
T33S R1W sections 3, 5, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 29, 30, 31
T33S R2W sections 1, 23, 35
T34S R1W section 5
T34S R2W sections 1, 3, 4

Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon

The proposed action is described in more detail in the Trail Creek Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA is in conformance with the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (SEIS), approved April 13, 1994, the *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan for the Medford District* (RMP), approved June 1995, the *Record of Decision and Standard and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standard and Guidelines*, (S&M ROD), approved January 2001 and *Managing the Impact of Wildfires on the Communities and the Environment*, (USDA, USDI 2000).

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the information in the **Trail Creek Environmental Assessment** and **Addendum to the Trail Creek Environmental Assessment**, consideration of the comments received from the public regarding the proposed vegetation treatments, and other information available to me, it is my determination that the action described above will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment beyond the range of impacts and effects addressed by the Medford District Resource Management Plan, the Northwest Forest Plan, their EIS documents and their respective Records of Decision. Thus, the North and South Trail timber sales do not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment and an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not necessary and will not be prepared.

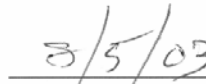
On September 19, 2002 the Butte Falls Field Manager signed the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Fuel Hazard Reduction, Culvert Replacement, and Road Projects. A FONSI was not issued on the timber harvest portion of the EA, because the interdisciplinary team re-evaluated the proposed alternatives taking into consideration the effects of the Wall Creek Fire. Of the 216 acres of BLM administered lands affected by the Wall Creek Fire, 3 acres were included in the proposed timber harvest units.

Rationale

- Formal Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) has been completed. The project is covered under ROGUE RIVER/SOUTH COAST FY 01/02/03 MEDFORD DISTRICT, Bureau of Land Management, ROGUE RIVER and SISKIYOU National Forests BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT 18 July 2001 and Biological Opinion (FWS) 1-7-01-032, 12 October 2001.
- Formal consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has been completed, and the projects are covered under a Letter of Concurrence dated June 27, 2002.
- Surveys have been completed for Threatened and Endangered, Special Status and Survey and Manage plants. Appropriate mitigation has been implemented for all known sites.
- Surveys have been completed for Threatened and Endangered and Survey and Manage wildlife. Appropriate mitigation has been implemented for all known sites.
- There are no significant adverse effects on public health and safety.
- There are no impacts to Environmental Justice, because no low income or minority populations have been identified by the BLM internally or through the public comment process.
- Riparian treatments will lead to an upward trend in the improvement of the aquatic habitat.
- If any cultural resource, or listed or federal candidate species is found during project implementation, the site will be avoided or mitigation applied.

Approved By: 

Lance E. Nimmo
Butte Falls Field Manager
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management


Date